

THE LIFE AND WRITINGS

age or nation has furnished an example. It is the mark those, who not looking up to Heaven, to their own soil dustry, as does the husbandman, for their subsistence, for it on casualties and caprice of customers. Dependence gets subservience and venality suffocates the germs of and prepares fit tools for the designs of ambition. The natural progress and consequence of the arts, has soon perhaps been retarded by accidental circumstances; but generally speaking, the proportion which the aggregate of the classes of citizens bears in any State to that of its husbandry is the proportion of its unsound to its healthy parts, a good enough barometer whereby to measure its degree of corruption. (From Notes on Virginia, 1782. F. III., 2)

AGRICULTURE.—I think our government will remain ours for many centuries, as long as they are chiefly agriculturists and this will be as long as there shall be vacant lands in any part of America. When they get piled upon one another in cities, as in Europe, they will become corrupt as in Europe. (To James Madison, 1785. F. IV., 479.)

AGRICULTURE.—Were I to indulge my own theory, I wish our States to practice neither commerce nor navigation but to stand with respect to Europe precisely on the footing of China. We would thus avoid wars, and all our citizens; be husbandmen. But this is theory only, and the theory of the servants of America are not at liberty to follow. Our people have a decided taste for navigation and commerce. Taken from their mother country; and their servants are bound to calculate all their measures on this datum; and to do it by throwing open all the doors of commerce and taking off its shackles.

But as this cannot be done for
unless they will do it for us, I
suppose we shall be obliged to adopt a
system which may shackle them in
our parts do us in theirs. (From
a letter written from Paris to -dorp,
1785. F. IV., 105.)

AGRICULTURE.—Cultivators of the
earth are the most virtuous citizens. They
are the most vigorous, the most
independent, the most virtuous, and they
are tied to their country and i